REPORT

DATE: January 6, 2005

TO: Administrative Committee and Regional Council Members

FROM: Zahi Faranesh/Hasan Ikhrata

SUBJECT: January Shanghai Maglev Trip for Congressional Staff and U.S. Maglev Projects

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve SCAG representation during the Congressional Shanghai Maglev Trip in January or February, 2005.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG has been invited by Transrapid, USA to represent the Southern California Maglev Deployment Project on a trip to Shanghai and Beijing, China, that has been planned for January or February, 2005. Transrapid USA has extended similar invitations to all active Maglev projects: Pittsburgh, Baltimore-Washington, Southern California and Cal-Nevada.

The purpose of this trip is to educate Congressional Committee staff on Maglev technology and the United States Maglev Program. Several high-ranking Committee staff members will be included in the group, providing an excellent opportunity for SCAG to interface with Congressional staffers and educate them on the importance of the United States Maglev program and the Southern California Maglev Deployment Program. Participants will be able to interact with Congressional staff on an ongoing basis and will be able to present their projects to attendees.

With Congress reconvening in mid-January when discussions and negotiations will begin on TEA-21 Reauthorization, time is critical to ensure adequate funding for the Maglev program in the Reauthorization. The reauthorization process is expected to conclude in April 2005, making this trip essential to the understanding of the authors of such expansive transportation legislation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The following table describes approximated costs that may be incurred by an attendee:

Item	Cost
Airfare	1,500
Hotel	1,000
Food/Per Diem	300
Other (svc. chg./transp./etc)	200
Total	3,000

Additionally, the FRA has agreed to pay for the previous October trip to Shanghai for the Maglev' 2004 Conference. The Regional Council previously agreed to fund this trip through SCAG's General Fund. It is requested that the expenditures for the January/February, 2005 trip for one staff person to be funded up to \$3,000 through the General Fund and an additional staff member be funded through other sources of funding.



General Fund RC Special Projects Line Item Budget January 6, 2005

RC Special Projects	\$49,000
Transfer Funds to Travel for China Trip	(\$4,000)
Transfer Funds to RC General Assembly	(\$5,000)
Transfer Funds from Line of Credit Interest Costs	\$9,200
Return Funds from China Trip (Paid by FRA)	\$4,000
Remaining Budget	\$53,200
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Co-Sponsorship of UCLA's Extension Public Policy	(\$8,000)
Program 2004 Arrowhead Symposium	
Co-Sponsorship of Rail-Volution Conference	(\$5,000)
Co-Sponsorship of So. California's Leadership Class	(\$12,500)
XV Tuition, Luncheon, & Graduation	
Sponsorship of 3 rd Annual Inland Empire	(\$500)
Transportation & Logistics Summit	
Legislative Drafting (Approved June 2004)	(\$7,000)
Tribal Summit	(\$200)
Peer Review Program (January – June 2005)	(\$2,500)
Sponsorship Clean Cities Conference & Expo	(\$2,500)
Production Costs for New Members Benefits Brochure	(\$3,500)
Sponsorship of 2005 California Federal Delegation	(\$5,500)
Reception	, ,
January/ February China Trip	(\$3,000)
Balance as of December 2, 2004	\$3,000